



**Claims 9, 10 (canceled).**

**Claim 11 (previously presented):** The absorbent article as set forth in claim 8, further including:

at least one of a leak-preventive cuff for preventing side leakage and leg cuff for preventing leakage through an area around a wearer's thighs, and the at least one of a leakage-preventive cuff and leg cuff are located between said top sheet and said skin-protective ingredient containing layer and said support layer.

**Claims 12-15 (canceled).**

**Claim 16 (currently amended):** The absorbent article as set forth in claim 8 [[1]], wherein said skin-protective ingredient containing layer and said support layer are provided in regions of the absorbent article that are fitted to the thighs of the wearer.

**Claim 17 (currently amended)** The absorbent article as set forth in claim 8 [[1]], wherein said skin-protective ingredient containing layer and said support layer are provided in regions of the absorbent article that are fitted to one or more of the back, the buttocks or the abdominal region of the wearer.